



• INFO memo - April 23, 2004

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Smooth Move Made to Justice Center

The transition of the Court Clerk's office and the Municipal Court sessions to Broken Arrow's new Justice Center went extremely well, according to officials there. The move was made Monday (April 19), and court sessions began there the following day.

The new facility is located just south of the Police Department, on 1st Place between Washington and New Orleans. Court Clerk offices and Municipal Court were formerly in the City Hall.

The new telephone number for the Municipal Court is 451-8558. Calls to the old number will automatically be forwarded to the new line for several weeks. Traffic fines and other such payments will now be made at the Justice Center. Water bills, inspection fees, etc., will continue to be made at City Hall.

Broken Arrow's Crime Lab was due to be moved to the new Justice Center Friday (April 23), and a week later (April 30) Police officials hope to have the new jail ready for occupancy. Any prisoners in the current jail at City Hall would be moved to the new one on that day.

Police Chief Todd Wuestewald indicated it would likely be the first of May before the Police Property Room would make the move south.

Gun Locks Available at Rooster Days

Broken Arrow's Police Department will be handing out free gun locks at Rooster Days and in the future at other citywide events. The gun locks are being donated by "Project Childsafe" to the BAPD.

Each safety kit contains educational material on gun safety and the free gun lock. The kits were purchased through a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, and managed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Lisa Ford, Crime Prevention Specialist for the BAPD, reports the kits will be delivered to the Crime Prevention unit on May 6.

Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff May 15

Flags in Broken Arrow and across the nation will be flown at half-staff on May 15, which has been designated "Peace Officers Memorial Day."

The day of tribute honoring the thousands of American law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty was approved by Congress in 1994, with the urging of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

That organization reports that every 53 hours a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty, and that since the first recorded death in 1792, more than 16,000 law enforcement officers have "made the ultimate sacrifice."

The names of the 145 officers killed in 2003, as well as 217 others killed in prior years, will be formally dedicated at the 2004 National Candlelight Vigil to be held the evening of May 13 at the grounds of the National Memorial in Washington, D.C.

BA Seniors, Inc., Preparing for Senior Week 2004

Broken Arrow's City Council has declared next week, April 26 through 30, as "Senior Citizen Week" in the community, helping highlight the annual BASI Seniors Week.

"Come See How We've Grown" is the theme for this year's Broken Arrow Seniors Week, which will begin Monday at The Main Place and Senior Center (1800 S. Main).

There will be games and activities all week long for the growing population of senior citizens in Broken Arrow. One of the features this year will be a Wednesday demonstration of pickle ball, which has become a popular activity for seniors at the Community Center. The demonstration will be held at the Centennial Hall at The Main Place.

BASI is a non-profit, United Way agency which provides opportunities for seniors to enjoy life a little more, and also receive some much-needed services. During the past year The Main Place was expanded with the addition of Centennial Hall, made possible by voters who passed a bond issue for the project.

That addition has provided more room for dances, lunches, special programs and events. For information on BASI call 259-8377.

Severe Weather Dampens Spring Sports

The nightly assault of severe storms in the Broken Arrow area has put a bit of a damper on outdoor youth sports such as soccer and baseball and softball.

City facilities are used for all three sports, and coaches and officials are reminded that when lightning and threatening weather is nearby, games should be stopped. Park officials have noted that some teams are waiting until tornado sirens sound.

City workers are finishing up the parking lot for the new Country Aire swimming pool, which will open the final weekend in May when the Family Aquatic Center also opens.

Swimming lessons will once again be offered at the old Central Pool in Central Park, beginning June 7. Signups for those classes can be done at the Community Center. A complete list of classes, sessions, etc., can be found on the City's web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov) in the section on Parks & Recreation.

Ford Recognized in National Publication

Lisa Ford, honored this week as the City of Broken Arrow's Employee of the Quarter, was also recognized in "Catalyst" magazine, a national publication by the National Crime Prevention Council.

A photo of Ford, who is the Crime Prevention Specialist for the BAPD, was included in the April edition of the publication, along with a story on some of her many accomplishments since starting here three years ago.

It pointed out that Ford was a stay-at-home mom in Tulsa when she found graffiti in her neighborhood. She contacted local police and was told it should be removed "immediately." Lisa recalled, "Remembering how adamant the officer was to have it removed as soon as possible, I asked if I could remove it myself, and they said yes. So with my four-year-old son in hand and a gallon of paint, we covered up the graffiti. It empowered me that one person could make a difference."

And that's the message Ford has been carrying out to the citizens of Broken Arrow. She helps coordinate such programs as Alert Neighborhood, Seniors and Law Enforcement, Police volunteers, Night Out Against Crime and many more.

In each of those programs, Ford said in the feature, "regular citizens have the power to keep their neighborhoods safe, and by teaching crime prevention I can help make the community where I live a safer, better place."

City Council to Lead Clean-up Effort

"Do as we say and do as we do, too," might well be the theme of the Broken Arrow City Council Saturday (April 24), as they get out to clean up "their mile" or roadway in the community. The Council adopted a mile along Main Street as part of the City's Adopt-A-Mile program. They will meet at 8 a.m. in front of the BA Public Schools Administration Building Saturday to start their pickup efforts. Their mile extends from Houston to the Kenosha on Main.

The City's Adopt-A-Mile program is handled through the Parks & Recreation Department. The goal of the program is to have each linear right-of-way mile and each public park in Broken Arrow "adopted" by a community club, volunteer, church, business or school group. Those groups would be responsible for periodic cleanups of their right-of-way or park.